

# Data Discovery Activity

<b>Purpose</b>	To look closely at examples of data, and to discover specific information and patterns of information, both individually and as a group.
<b>Target Audience</b>	Staff who want or need practice working with data
<b>Time</b>	First round: 10 minutes Second round: 20 minutes Third round: 30 minutes
<b>Materials</b>	Four separate examples of data (with headings labeled “set 1”, “set 2”, etc.), blank paper, highlighters, pencils/pens, chart pad paper, masking tape, and markers.
<b>Toolkit Reference</b>	Chapter 4
<b>Process Protocol</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Give clear directions for this jigsaw-type activity with the first round as follows:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tell participants that their first group activity will be done as a home group.</li><li>• Ask individuals at tables to look at a data sheet in front of them (each person at the table should have a different data sheet).</li></ul></li><li>2. Ask each participant to individually write down observations about their data:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What do the data tell us?</li><li>• What stands out?</li><li>• What are the pattern(s)?</li><li>• What questions do you have?</li></ul></li><li>3. Give clear directions for the second round as follows:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assign locations for each group.</li><li>• Ask participants to move to appropriate table group, according to the number on their data example sheet (“set 1”, “set 2”, etc.).</li><li>• After participants have been seated in their new groups, ask all participants to do a round robin and share their individual data discoveries, as well as any questions they have with their group.</li><li>• The group will need to determine a recorder and a reporter.</li><li>• As a group, reach consensus about the data discoveries. Write down three key questions on</li></ul></li></ol>

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which the group agrees are *must get an answer* questions.

4. At the end of 20 minutes, ask participants to return to their “home group” to discuss the process for discovering data insights as follows:
  - Ask each group to agree on one main insight to report out to the larger group.
  - Each group selects a reporter (spokesperson) to record the “discovery.”
5. Record the discoveries on chart pad paper and post on the wall.
6. Ask the large group to answer the question:  
*What other data do we as a group need to examine?*
7. Record responses on new sheet of paper.
8. Determine next steps.

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## Comments to the Facilitator

The goal of the activity is to introduce a process for becoming comfortable with data analysis.

*Process outcomes include:*

- New knowledge connected to prior knowledge and skills
- An understanding of colleagues’ perceptions about the data
- A new process protocol to practice with students or other staff
- A scheduled follow-up date to look at more data

In preparation for the session, collect data sets (data that give the “bigger picture” or that are comparative data). For example, you may want to provide one or more sets of student test data, demographic data, perceptual data, Continuous Improvement Continuum assessments, and/or process data, or data over time.

Be sure to stay within time limits for each round.